

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :

Willie L. STAMEY, Jr. and
Robert Sean Cunningham

Group Art Unit: Not assigned

Serial No.: Not assigned

Examiner Not assigned

Filed: November 30, 2001

For: SEAL FOR AIR FILTERS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION: Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 4, the paragraph beginning on line 6 has been amended as follows:

As is best seen in Figs. 2-4, the gasket 30 configured in accordance with the present invention, is initially a separate piece from the end cap 20 and is snapped into engagement therewith. The gasket 30 is preferably made of a foamed material or sponge rubber material having a durometer in a range of 8-20. Considering Figs. 2-4 in combination with Fig. 1, the gasket 30 has a radially extending lip 60 having first surface 62 which seals with the wall 38 (see Fig. 1) and a second surface 64 which seals with the end cap 20. Extending from the radially extending lip 60 is an axially extending body portion 66 which projects into the opening 67 defined by the end cap 20. The axially projecting body portion


66 has an annular groove 68 disposed just behind the lip 60 and extending from the sealing surface 64. The annular groove 68 is defined by a shoulder 70 from which a tapered surface portion 72 extends and tapers toward the opening 34 through the gasket 30. The tapered surface portion 72 is preferably actuate and engages annular corner 76 of end cap 20 which deforms the axially projecting portion 66 inwardly as is the gasket 30 is pressed through the circular opening 67 defined by an inner flange 80 of the first end cap 20. The axial length of the inner flange 80 is substantially equal to the axial length of the annular groove 68 so that concurrent with the surface 64 of lip 60 engaging the outer face 82 of end cap 20, the inner flange 80 fits within the groove 68 as the shoulder 70 snaps over the edge of the inner flange 80. Optionally, adhesive is disposed between the outer face 82 of the end cap 20 and the surfaces 64 and 68 of the gasket 30 to permanently retain the gasket after it is initially snapped into place. The interior surface 36 of the gasket 30 has ribs 84 for bearing against the air outlet pipe 32 in order to affect a long lasting seal. An initial frustoconical surface 86 facilitates easy insertion of the air outlet pipe 32.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment types hand written corrections into the specification.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attorney Docket No.: DANA-260

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[illegible]

As is best seen in Figs. 2-4, the gasket 30 configured in accordance with the present invention, is initially a separate piece from the end cap 20 and is snapped into engagement therewith. The ~~end cap~~ gasket 30 is preferably made of a foamed material or sponge rubber material having a durometer in a range of 8-20. ~~A preferable material for gasket 30 is foamed polyurethane.~~ Considering Figs. 2-4 in combination with Fig. 1, the gasket 30 has a radially extending lip 60 having first surface 62 which seals with the wall 38 (see Fig. 1) and a second surface 64 which seals with the end cap 20. Extending from the radially extending lip 60 is an axially extending body portion 66 which projects into the opening 67 defined by the end cap 20. The axially projecting body portion 66 has an annular groove 68 disposed just behind the lip 60 and extending from the sealing surface 64. The annular groove 68 is defined by a shoulder 70 from which a tapered surface portion 72 extends and tapers toward the opening 34 through the gasket 30. The tapered surface portion 72 is preferably actuate and engages annular corner 76 of end cap 20 which deforms the axially projecting portion 66 inwardly as is the gasket 30 is pressed through the circular opening 67 defined by an inner flange 80 of the first end cap 20. The axial length of the inner flange 80 is substantially equal to the axial length of the annular groove 68 so that concurrent with the surface 64 of lip 60 engaging the outer face 82 of end cap 20, the inner flange 80 fits within the groove 68 as the shoulder 70 snaps over the edge of the inner flange 80. Optionally, adhesive is disposed between the outer face 82 of the end cap 20 and the surfaces 64 and 68 of the gasket 30 to permanently retain the gasket after it is

initially snapped into place. The interior surface 36 of the gasket 30 has ribs 84 for bearing against the air outlet pipe 32 in order to affect a long lasting seal. An initial frustoconical surface 86 facilitates easy insertion of the air outlet pipe 32.